

Message Text

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ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OES-05 EPA-04 INT-05 OFA-01 EB-07

HEW-06 /041 R

DRAFTED BY NMFS:JSLAVIN:CSA
APPROVED BY OES/OFA:MDBUSBY
EUR-MR. KRUSE (PHONE)
OES/EN-MR. LONG (PHONE)
OES/OFA-MR. DALTON
EPA-MR. BLANE
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
EPA, NMFS

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R 191432Z NOV 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

UNCLAS STATE 273645

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS:EFIS

SUBJECT: CANADIAN HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH STUDY

1. CANADIAN HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH OFFICIALS LAST WEEK ANNOUNCED PLANS TO ESTABLISH A TOLERANCE FOR POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBS) IN FISH AT 2PPM. CANADIAN SCIENTISTS REPORTEDLY CONCERNED OVER NEW DATA ON TOXICITY, REPORTS OF CARCINOGENICITY IN RATS, AND LEVELS OF OCCURRENCE IN SOME SPECIES.

2. US FOOD AND DRUG ADMIN NOT EXPECTED FOLLOW CANADIAN ACTION AT THIS TIME, DUE TO EXISTING US TEMPORARY TOLERANCE OF 5.0PPM, AND ABSENCE SUFFICIENT ADDITIONAL DATA AND INFORMATION ON WHICH TO CONSIDER CHANGE. CONSIDERABLE NEW SCIENTIFIC DATA ON PCBS ARE EXPECTED TO BE REPORTED AND DISCUSSED AT A SYMPOSIUM IN CHICAGO, NO 19-21.

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3. IN VIEW INTRICATE CONSUMER AND MARKETING RELATIONSHIPS FOR FISHERY PRODUCTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, U.S. BELIEVES CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE DESIRABLE BETWEEN WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES RE APPROACH TO PCBs IN SEAFOODS. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS OF NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE (NMFS), NOAA, COMMERCE, ARE

AVAILABLE VISIT OTTAWA FOR MEETING WITH FISHERIES COUNTER-PARTS IN CANADIAN GOVERNMENT TO EXPLORE SITUATION TO REVIEW SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION ON COMMERCIAL AND RECREATIONAL FISHERIES, AND TO DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED EXPLORE WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS IN CANADIAN DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING INFORMAL WORKING LEVEL CONSULTATIONS THIS SUBJECT, EITHER IN WASHINGTON, DC, OTTAWA, OR OTHER APPROPRIATE LOCATION. CONTACTS IN CANADIAN DEPT OF ENVIRONMENT SHOULD INCLUDE CLIFFORD R. LEVELTON, DIRECTOR GENERAL, FISHERIES OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE, AND MICHAEL SHEPARD, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL FISHERIES POLICY.

5. MR. JOSEPH SLAVIN, ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR RESOURCE UTILIZATION, NMFS (TEL: 202-634-7261) MAY BE CONTACTED DIRECTLY FOR FURTHER INFORMATION. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISH, NEGOTIATIONS, CHEMICALS, FOOD & DRUG REGULATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE273645
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSLAVIN:CSA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750403-0233
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751132/aaaabbwm.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 DEC 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 DEC 2003 by chicheje>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANADIAN HEALTH PROTECTION BRANCH STUDY
TAGS: EFIS, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006